Stock of foodgrains with FCI

2366. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quality of wheat, rice and paddy stored in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India as in December, 2002;

(b) the amount spent annually on storage of foodgrains;and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains which becomes unfit for human consumption every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The stock of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) and wheat, in Central Pool, as on 1st January, 2003 was 193.72 lakh tonnes and 288.03 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) The total cost of storage of foodgrains during 2002-2003 (Revised Estimates) is Rs. 1370/- crores.

(c) The quantity varies from year to year depending upon weather conditions, unprecedented/inccessant rains, cyclones, floods, spillage and duration of storage.

Price of sugarcane

2367. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that while Supreme Court in their Order dated that the 31 st January, 2001 had upheld the agreed price of Rs. 95 per quintal of sugarcane and the Allahabad High Court subsequently granted a contrary order on 13th November, 2002 directing payment of much less (Rs. 64.50) Statutory Minimum probably, due to willful concealment of Supreme Court order by the vested interests, resulting in suicide by farmers; and

(b) whether so, who is responsible for this tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) On the basis of a counter-affidavit filed on behalf

of the State Government, the Hon'ble Allabahad High Court vide its Order dated 10th January, 2003 has modified its earlier Order dated 13th November, 2002 to the extent that it will remain open to the U.R State Sugar Corporation Ltd., as well as U.R Cooperative Sugar Rederation to enter into negotiations with the respective cane growers' unions and make payment according to the price agreement arrived at with regard to the price of sugarcane.

Foodgrains in Central Godowns

† 2368. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat or other foodgrains available in the Central foodgrains godowns;

(b) whether any limit has been fixed for providing wheat per person in the drought affected States by the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The stock of rice and wheat in Central Pool, as on 1.1.2003 was 482.00 lakh tonnes.

(b) and (c) Under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) foodgrains are allowed to each family @35 kgs per month all over the country.

Rotting of foodgrains in godowns

†2369. SHRI RK. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incidents of rotting wheat in Government godowns in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra including several other States has come to Government's notices;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to maintain coordination in the Public Distribution System;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.